

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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NEW INDEX OF MINIMUM WEEKLY WAGE RATES (ADULT MALES)

The indexes of nominal weekly wage rates published quarterly since 1911 used 1911 as base year = 1000. The indexes for each industry were the unweighted averages of selected occupations. These industry indexes were combined into aggregate indexes by using industry weights current in 1911 and immediately ensuing years.

The indexes so compiled have now been reconstructed to cover a more representative range of occupations closely related to current conditions.

The data necessary for the selection and weighting of occupations included in the new index were derived from two sample surveys carried out by the Bureau during 1954. In April, 1954, an exploratory Survey of Awards, etc. showed the number of employees covered by individual awards, determinations and agreements. In November, 1954 a Survey of Award Occupations (based on the exploratory survey of April) showed the number of employees in each occupation within selected awards, etc. Because of coverage difficulties, employees on rural holdings and in private households were excluded from the surveys.

The wage rates used in the reconstructed index have been derived entirely from representative awards, determinations and agreements in each industry for representative occupations within each industry. For adult males it includes 2175 specific occupations and the aggregate for the six States amounts to 3380 award designations. It is designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of "wages" as distinct from "salaries"; therefore, awards, etc. relating solely or mainly to salary earners are excluded.

For the occupations embraced in the reconstructed index, particulars of minimum weekly rates of wage were ascertained from the relevant awards, determinations and agreements in force as at the end of each quarter, commencing with 31st March, 1939. From these rates weighted averages were calculated for each industry. These were then combined into weighted averages for all groups. Weights for each industry in each State were determined by the number of employees therein as shown by the Survey of Awards; the selected occupations were weighted in accordance with the proportions of employees in such occupations as recorded at the Survey of Award Occupations.

In the table on the next page the weighted averages so calculated for Australia are shown in shillings and pence for adult males, for both the former index and the reconstructed index, as at 31st December of each year from 1939 to 1958 and 30th June, 1959. These are also shown as index numbers with the weighted average for the year 1954 as base (= 100).

Occupations in rural industry are not included in the new index; hence, for purposes of comparison the former index excluding Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.) and the new index excluding Group XI. (Shipping, etc.) have been shown in the table.

This Bulletin relates to minimum wage rates prescribed for adult males only. Corresponding data for adult females will be completed within a few months and the new index will then be incorporated in official statistical publications.

Because of the close agreement between the two indexes the former index prior to 31st March, 1939 can be regarded as continuous with the new index since that date.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, AUSTRALIA (a)

Indexes of Weighted Average Minimum Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates, as prescribed in Awards, Determinations and Agreements.

Date	Former Index (b)	New Index (c)	Date	Former Index (b)	New Index (c)
Rates of Wage					
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
31st Dec., 1939	98 0	98 7	31st Dec., 1949	167 4	168 9
" " 1940	101 1	101 11	" " 1950	199 11	202 2
" " 1941	107 0	108 10	" " 1951	239 6	242 8
" " 1942	116 6	117 5	" " 1952	271 1	273 4
" " 1943	119 4	120 0	" " 1953	278 3	280 5
" " 1944	119 5	120 2	" " 1954	281 4	287 3
" " 1945	119 11	120 8	" " 1955	292 6	297 7
" " 1946	128 2	129 1	" " 1956	308 9	313 4
" " 1947	138 4	140 11	" " 1957	313 6	317 7
" " 1948	154 8	156 8	" " 1958	318 9	322 11
" " 1949	167 4	168 9	30th June, 1959	327 4	332 4

Index Numbers

(Base : Weighted Average Wage Rate for Australia, 1954 = 100)

31st Dec., 1939	34	34	31st Dec., 1949	60	60
" " 1940	36	36	" " 1950	71	72
" " 1941	38	39	" " 1951	85	86
" " 1942	42	42	" " 1952	97	97
" " 1943	43	42	" " 1953	99	99
" " 1944	43	43	" " 1954	100	102
" " 1945	43	43	" " 1955	104	105
" " 1946	46	46	" " 1956	110	111
" " 1947	49	50	" " 1957	112	112
" " 1948	55	55	" " 1958	114	114
" " 1949	60	60	30th June, 1959	117	118

- The amounts shown should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index expressed in money terms, indicative of trends.
- All industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.).
- All industrial groups except Group XI. (Shipping, etc.). Rural industries are not included in the new index.

S. R. CARVER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

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CANBERRA, A.C.T.

12TH NOVEMBER, 1959.

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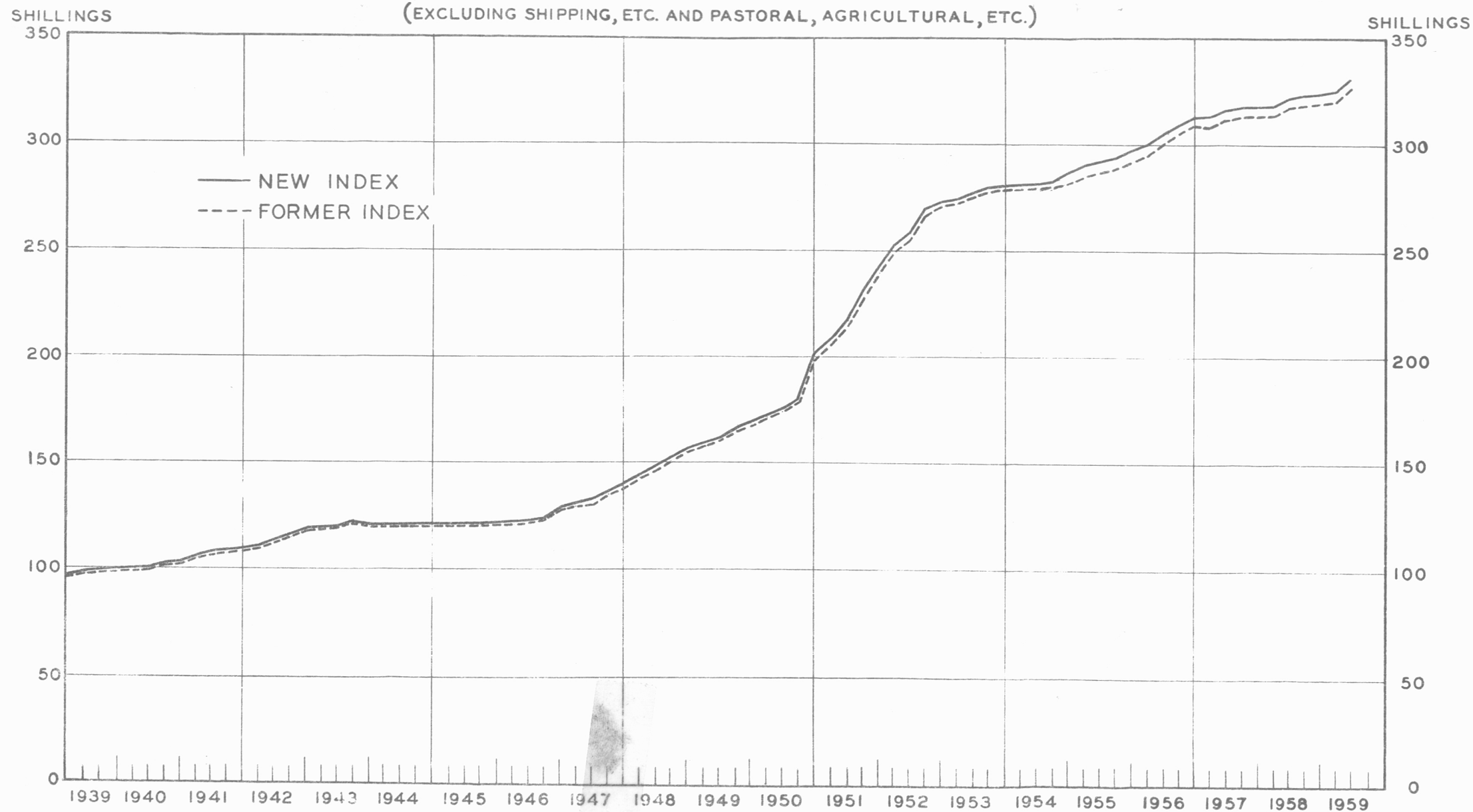
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INDEXES OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE MINIMUM WEEKLY WAGE RATES: ADULT MALES, AUSTRALIA

(EXCLUDING SHIPPING, ETC. AND PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.)



S/T 1980